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FINANCIAL THERAPIST TALKS MONEY, PG 18

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Green pg 13

Gadgets to help you save the planet

UFOs light up the skies in Canada

NUMBERS Some were strange lights. Some appeared to be cigar-shaped spaceships.

Canadians reported a record number of UFO sightings last year, according to Winnipeg-based Ufology Research.

The volunteer group of a half-dozen researchers noted 1,004 reported sightings in 2008 — up more than 25 per cent from the previous year and the highest amount in the 20 years Ufology has been keeping track. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oscars **Spanish flair**

MATT SAYLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spanish actress Penelope Cruz holds the Oscar for best supporting actress last night at the 81st Academy Awards for her work in Vicky Cristina Barcelona. **More coverage, pages 19, 20, 21.**

Sketchy outline

Clement seeks more info on Chrysler's financial plan

The federal government needs to get a better idea from Chrysler Canada about the implications for this country of the company's financial restructuring plan, says Industry Minister Tony Clement.

In an interview yesterday on CTV's Question Period, Clement said he's especially interested in finding out what product lines Chrysler has in mind for its plants in Windsor and Brampton.

Chrysler provided only a sketchy outline of its latest proposals last Friday, sending a brief covering letter to the federal and Ontario governments that added little to plans previously submitted to the new Obama administration in the United States.

Chrysler said it didn't have to go into great detail about developments north of the border because its American and Canadian operations are so highly integrated.

But the paucity of new information disappointed some industry analysts, and Clement made it clear he wasn't satisfied.

"We do have an integrated market," he said.

"But at the same time, if we're talking about Canadian taxpayer dollars, we do want to have some specifics about what exactly is going to be going on in Canada. I think that message did get through." THE CANADIAN PRESS

General Motors

- General Motors informed Clement and his Ontario counterpart Michael Bryant last Friday that the firm will need more than the $3 billion in aid already sought in Canada, but it put no precise figure on the latest request. GM also indicated it will trim its Canadian operations to 7,000 employees by next year and slash its dealer network in the country.

Four tickets split Canada's second largest lottery prize

All the wishing and hoping has paid off, literally, for several lottery players after four winning tickets were produced in Saturday's colossal 6/49 draw.

Four golden tickets were sold for the $50.3-million jackpot, the second largest in Canadian history. While the winners have yet to surface, it's known that three were bought in Ontario and one was purchased in Quebec.

Ontario's lucky few would have stood in long lines somewhere in Halton and Durham regions and the Sudbury area, said Teresa Roncon, a spokeswoman for the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation.

It's now up to people to check their tickets and come forward to claim the corresponding $12.6 million for each winning ticket.

Ontario ticket sales for the draw totalled $36 million. Total sales across Canada were $79.5 million. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Riding the **Recession**

Looking for ways to save money and ride out the economic storm? Now through the end of March, Metro will share advice on how to cut down on expenses and navigate your way through the recession.

- Workology

Doing more with less, pg 16

- Comment

Anne Hines provides Metro readers with an "Are you ready for the recession?" questionnaire, pg 10

- This week

Health – How to grocery shop on a tighter budget. Auto – Some of the top-value cars on the market.

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Elderly man dead after car accident

An 86-year-old man is dead after his car collided head-on with a van at a busy Don Mills intersection Saturday night. The man was driving a Ford Focus eastbound on York Mills Road at Don Mills Road around 8 p.m. when he collided with a van making a left turn. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Climbing 7 peaks for charity

Actress-model Monika Schnarre, left, was one 100 people who agreed to mount a combined 7,700 steps to raise money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. For the second year, the charity organized the 7 Summits challenge, with each of the city's tallest towers representing one of the highest peaks on each continent. The Heart and Stroke Foundation hoped the climb would raise more than $1 million. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Tomorrow's Metro

Health

Rising prices for health food coupled with a recession is making it hard for people to eat healthy.

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Bill Clinton talks to CNN's Larry King about the stimulus bill, Palestine and BlackBerrys at **metronews.ca/world**

Blogs Ahead of their Champions League game, Montreal Impact's Nick De Santis joins the crew on It's Called Football

Video Bathurst, N.B. basketball team takes provincial title a year after tragic van crash at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video Stock markets open to pressure from global economic gloom at **metronews.ca/canada**

Lotteries

Friday, Feb. 20
Lotto Super 7: 12, 15, 18, 31, 33, 40 & 42. Bonus 1.
Saturday, Feb. 21
Lotto 6/49: 11, 20, 33, 34, 37 & 39. Bonus 22.
Sunday, Feb. 23
Ontario Pick 3: 4 2 3; **Ontario Pick 4 :** 9 0 3 8
Encore: 8441146
Daily Keno: 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 15, 17, 25, 27, 28, 29, 33, 37, 43, 49, 50, 51, 53, 64, 65.
These results are not official.

City gets an extreme makeover

20-year program in place to install 26,000 pieces of street furniture

Kyp Perikleous is standing in a transit shelter on the southwest corner of King and York Streets, the kind of place that has, after a fashion, become his natural habitat.

"It's a little bit taller," says the man overseeing the city's new street furniture program. "There's blue banding so it highlights (the name of) the cross-street."

Glass-walled save for one side reserved for advertising, the new shelter's interior features a little two-seater bench along with a map of the TTC system.

On the outside, there's a small, black rubber board, where locals can post notices about neighbourhood events or, more commonly elsewhere, yard sales, lost dogs and the like.

Perikleous, formally the city's manager of traffic planning and right-of-way management, is now overseeing the installation of a lot of shelters — a scheduled 400 per year through 2018, the pace slowing thereafter.

In all, the 20-year program will see nearly 26,000 new pieces of street furniture spread across the city, from shelters and benches to newspaper stands and recycling bins. But, given some design and manufacturing delays in 2008, the rollout will only start hitting its stride this year.

Within the next couple of weeks, for instance, all of the current benches will disappear from city streets to be replaced by a new, standard model.

Which also means that any complaints about the furniture's design or where it is and isn't tends to end up "on our lap," says Perikleous. "You can never satisfy everyone."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

AARON HARRIS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Kyp Perikleous, manager of traffic planning and right-of-way management, is overseeing the 20 year project called 'Coordinated Street Furniture Program', which began in September of 2007.

Street furniture

Expected to be up by 2027

- 5,000 transit shelters
- 12,500 litter/recycling receptacles
- 2,000 benches
- 120 information/way-finding structures
- 2,500 neighbourhood information kiosks
- 20 public washrooms
- 2,500 multi-publication news stands
- 1,000 bicycle parking units

CUPE Israeli boycott sparks furor

VOTE Jewish groups are expressing deep disappointment after delegates at a Canadian Union of Public Employees conference of university locals voted in favour of a boycott of Israeli universities.

"It's got nothing to do with individual academics," CUPE Ontario President Sid Ryan said at the conference in Windsor.

He said the boycott is to protest the Israeli siege of Gaza, and will focus on university programs that research and develop weapons used against Palestinians.

Ryan describes the move as an "adjunct" to a resolution passed in 2006 that called for an economic boycott of Israel.

Campaign

- Sid Ryan says his union's boycott is part of a bigger, worldwide campaign to boycott Israel with participants in Australia, Ireland and the United States.

The union will also look into its pension plan to make sure it's not funding the research and development of weapons.

He told reporters hundreds of Canadian academics recently signed an open letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper calling for some kind of sanction against Israel.

The resolution is not binding and some within the union have threatened to leave CUPE Ontario if the boycott was passed. Local 1001 and local 1393 at the University of Windsor have both said they would not support it.

Meir Weinstein, who heads the Canadian arm of the Jewish Defence League, called yesterday's vote a "black day." He condemns the boycott as "anti-Semitic."

Protesters called on CUPE members to impeach Ryan.

The boycott is expected to next come up for discussion at CUPE's 46th annual convention in Toronto this May.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Provincial conservatives stand behind Tory as their leader

POLITICS What could have been a weekend of atonement for Ontario Progressive Conservative Leader John Tory turned into a old-fashioned party revival, completing his resurrection from embattled prince-in-exile to pulpit-thumping preacher ready to lead his flock into another bid to bring down the ruling Liberals.

John Tory

Tory emerged from the party's convention yesterday a leader reborn, confident that he'd restored the party's faith in him and optimistic that the year ahead would be far better than the previous one.

The so-called "accountability" session — which was closed to reporters — could have turned ugly for Tory, who has fought to win over critics embittered by the party's humiliating defeat in the 2007 election.

Meanwhile, voters made their way to a second day of advance polls yesterday for a byelection in the of riding of Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock, which Tory is running in.

The byelection happens March 5. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cops look for suspects in robbery and beating of store clerk
Just before 10 p.m. Saturday, two men entered Finch Convenience store on 2544 Finch Ave. W. Both men jumped over the counter. One man began assaulting the 53-year-old owner while the other man broke into the cash register and pocketed an unknown amount of cash. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Child death toll shocking: Advocate

Ninety children known to Ontario's child welfare system died in 2007, according to the latest report from the chief coroner's office — a number the province's new child advocate says is shocking and should trouble us all.

Equally disturbing, says Irwin Elman in his first annual report to the legislature today, is the government's refusal to share detailed information on these deaths with his office.

"These are obviously very critical documents for the understanding of the events leading to the death of the child or youth, and entirely necessary for the work of the Advocacy Office," Elman writes in the report entitled 90 Deaths: Ninety Voices Silenced. "The matter of access to information is one that we will pursue vigorously."

In an interview, Elman, who has worked with youth in the care of Children's Aid Societies in Toronto for more than 20 years, said he had "no idea" so many of these vulnerable children, who were either open cases of the CAS or had died within a year of their files being closed, could perish in a single year in Ontario. Nor did he know that the number of children who have died has been constant since the late 1990s when the coroner's office began tracking their deaths.

"These are obviously very critical documents for the understanding of the events leading to the death of the child or youth and entirely necessary for the work of the Advocacy Office."
Irwin Elman, child advocate

When he asked medical officers of health and colleagues in child welfare, they, too, were surprised by the number and urged him to speak out, Elman said.

The 90 deaths in 2007 are recorded as part of the chief coroner's annual Pediatric Death Review Committee report released last June. Most of the deaths were preventable, the committee concluded.

Of the 76 classified deaths, 34 were babies younger than one year old and 24 were youth between the ages of 12 and 18.

In his report, Elman says his office will request legal standing at all inquests into deaths of children in the system and will conduct an independent review of jury recommendations dating back 10 years to determine trends and gaps.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Cops not ruling out blaze links

Investigators are probing fires at four townhouse construction sites in the GTA over the last week, including a suspicious blaze that destroyed eight homes and caused more than $1 million in damage in Mississauga early yesterday.

Police are not ruling out arson or that the fires are linked.

Yesterday's blaze began shortly before 1:50 a.m. at Burnhamthorpe Road and Ponytrail Drive. More than a dozen rescue trucks spent more than an hour fighting the blaze.

The eight houses were still being built and were believed to be unoccupied.

VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The scene after an early morning fire at Burnhamthorpe and Ponytrail in Mississauga involving new homes that were being built and under construction.

Eight other houses in the development were not affected.

Police are treating the fire as suspicious, and the fire marshal has been called in.

"The very fact that it has happened in the middle of the night with no one around (makes it suspicious)," Peel Region Const. Wayne Patterson said. "We will treat it as suspicious until proven otherwise."

The fire comes on the heels of three others in the past few days — two in Brampton early Tuesday and one early Friday in Burlington.

"We aren't dismissing the fact that they could be arsons, and we aren't dismissing that they could be linked," Patterson said. "But right now, we don't have anything to link them."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Family creates Facebook contest to find missing man

CAMPAIGN The friends and family of George Koutroubis have announced a $1,000 Facebook contest to join their group and post his poster in your profiles.

Koutroubis

The purpose of the campaign is to proliferate the search for Koutroubis beyond the 5,200 people who have already joined the search.

The winner will be randomly selected Friday at noon and announced via media release. If the winner is a resident of Whitby, they will receive a $250 bonus.

Koutroubis, 36, was last seen Feb. 17 at 7:30 a.m., in the Front Street West/Blue Jays Way area. He was last heard from via his cellphone while driving a black, 2008 BMW X5 SUV with Ontario licence plate BCSS 209 in the Whitby area at 4:45 p.m. Feb. 17. The SUV has a Pittsburgh Steelers licence plate holder, but police say it may have been removed along with the plates.

Koutroubis is described as white, 5-foot-11, 230 pounds, with brown eyes and short, black, receding hair.

Anyone with information is asked to call police at 416-808-5100. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Green act to fuel jobs

EMPLOYMENT Ontario's Liberal government hopes its Green Energy Act to be introduced today will create 50,000 new jobs and transform the province's struggling economy, but environmentalists warn the plan relies too heavily on nuclear power.

The bill will make it easier to bring renewable energy projects to life and create a culture of conservation, Energy Minister George Smitherman said.

The Ontario Clean Air Alliance wants the government to use the act to signal a move away from nuclear power.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Immigration

Read this week's column on Personal information to be released to foreign governments at metronews.ca

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New ropes intended to save whales

Canadian scientists and fishermen have been experimenting with so-called sinking, or weighted, rope between their lobster traps in a bid to reduce the risk of ensnaring whales. Entanglements are at record highs and U.S. environmentalists are exerting pressure to ban conventional fishing lines. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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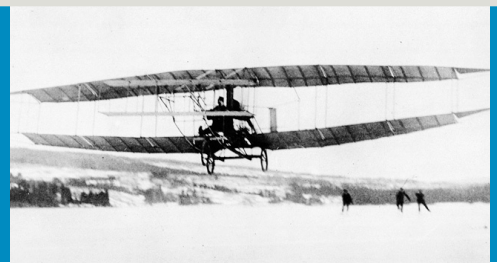

Silver Dart gets a home

The replica of the Silver Dart, left, will have an eventual home. A fundraising campaign was launched Saturday for the eventual building of a museum dedicated to the first powered flight in Canada. The so-called Innovation Centre will be an expansion to the existing Bell Museum in Baddeck, N.S. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pedophile ring probe near end

After four years, some 180 witnesses and $40 million in taxpayer dollars, a public inquiry struck in the shadow of sensational but unproven allegations that a clandestine pedophile ring once operated in eastern Ontario will draw to a close this week.

The Cornwall inquiry into how police and other institutions responded to allegations of historic sexual abuse — which made national headlines when the former police officer at the heart of probe was jailed for refusing to testify — will begin hearing final submissions today.

It's a landmark in a sad saga that has many expressing hope that some good may come for both abuse victims and the community. Others question what kind of resolution, if any, the report to be delivered in July will bring.

"We're hopeful that many lessons can be learned from the report." Peter Englemann

While the inquiry's work addressed Cornwall-specific issues, there are also general issues about how institutions handle such allegations, said lead commission counsel Peter Engelmann.

"We're hopeful that many lessons can be learned from the report that is finally written," Engelmann said in an interview. "This report should have value far beyond the city of Cornwall and its environs."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New Brunswick **From tragedy to triumph**

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bradd Arseneau of the Bathurst High School boy's basketball team, flanked Saturday by his dad Randy Arseneau and his mom Peggy O'Neil-Arseneau after winning the provincial AA championship in Fredericton, N.B.. The Phantoms beat the Campobello Vikings 82-50 to win the title a year after a horrible accident claimed the lives of seven players and the wife of their former coach.

Foreign criminals have fled Canada, report suggests

SECURITY Up to half of some 2,000 foreign criminals thought to be hiding in Canada may have already slipped out of the country, a new report suggests.

A sweep of northern Ontario by a special squad of border police found that almost half the criminals being tracked had abandoned Canada, most of them for the United States.

The results of Project Hide and Seek, launched last spring, suggest the lists of high-priority cases maintained by the Canada Border Services Agency are significantly out of date. And most of the fleeing criminals appear to be heading south.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

DEATHS Quebec provincial police discovered what they say appears to be a double-murder-attempted-suicide in a house in Piedmont, a small community in the Laurentian mountains 60 kilometres northwest of Montreal on Saturday.

RESCUE A major tragedy was averted off Newfoundland early yesterday when all 22 crewmen who had abandoned a burning fishing vessel were rescued by a Canadian Coast Guard vessel.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Lack of staff leaves seniors at risk
A Nova Scotia review found six of 76 nursing homes were warned they needed at least one registered nurse on duty at all times. CANADIAN PRESS

Tory delay 'infantile'

The Harper government has delayed for months the release of notes on conference calls held at the height of last summer's deadly listeriosis outbreak — a lag some experts say breaks Ottawa's own information laws.

At issue is an Access to Information request by The Canadian Press to the Privy Council Office for "all transcripts and minutes" of the crucial exchanges last August and September.

Officials were grappling at the time with a health crisis that sparked intense scrutiny of the national food safety system.

Privy Council officials at first said they had records as requested, but needed four months "to consult other government institutions" about them. Then Ann Wesch, the access to information director for PCO, wrote a letter dated Feb. 10 stating "the records retrieved do not fall under the scope of this request. Therefore we have no records relevant to your request."

20 The number of Canadians who died after developing listeriosis. The outbreak was traced to meat-processing equipment at a Maple Leaf Foods plant in Toronto. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The explanation for the flip-flop? Records retrieved were handwritten notes — not minutes or transcripts, said the PCO analyst questioned about the response.

Retired Col. Michel Drapeau, a lawyer who co-wrote a book on federal information laws and teaches at the University of Ottawa, was astounded by the Privy Council response.

"It is silly," he said. "I would even say it's infantile to be making this sort of distinction. This goes against the spirit of the act and the letter of the act."

Privy Council spokeswoman Myriam Massabki had no immediate comment. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Victims file lawsuit against feds

COURT Three Canadians who were jailed and tortured in Syria are filing new lawsuits against the federal government, armed with fresh information from an inquiry that implicated several agencies in their ordeals.

The renewed legal actions come four months after a commission of inquiry said Canadian officials contributed to the brutalization of Ahmad El Maati, Muayyed Nureddin and Abdullah Almalki by sharing information — including unfounded and inflammatory accounts of extremist links — with foreign intelligence and police agencies.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

VANCOUVER A witness video showing four Mounties rushing up to Robert Dziekanski at Vancouver's airport and within seconds shocking him with a Taser has until now existed in a vacuum. This week, Canadians will hear from the officers as they begin their highly anticipated testimony at a public inquiry into Dziekanski's October 2007 death. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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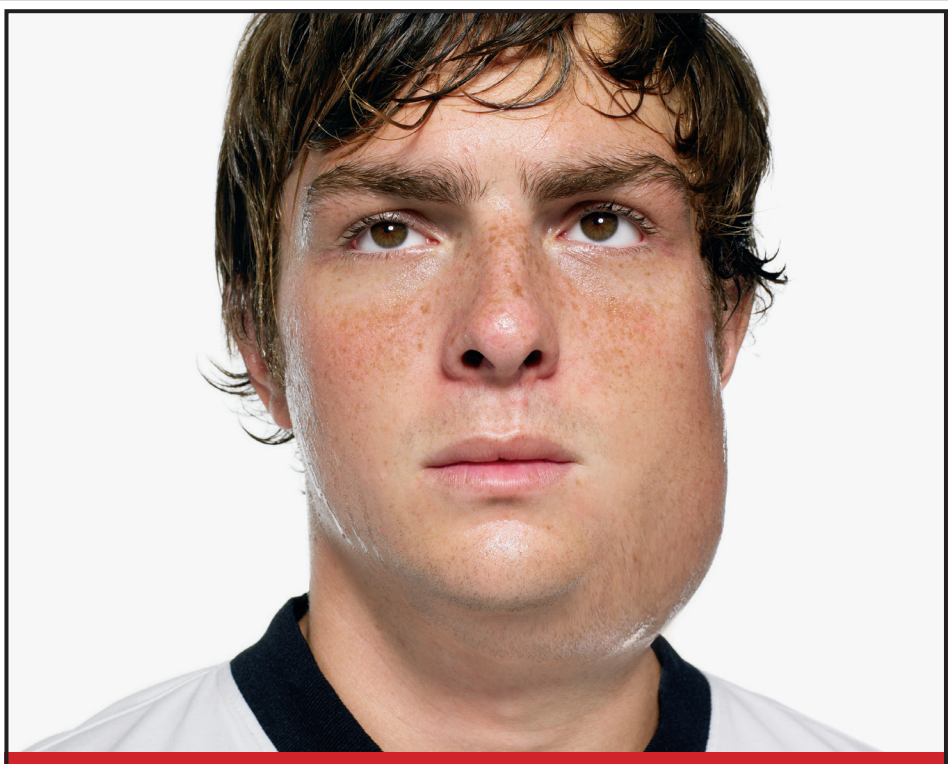

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Change coming to Saudi Arabia?
Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, a senior member of Saudi Arabia's royal family, says he is certain that one day there will be movie theatres in the conservative kingdom. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Taliban leader killed

Commander directed roadside bombings

Afghan forces were credited yesterday with bringing down a Taliban leader who was responsible for directing a campaign of roadside bombings in Kandahar province.

Mullah Mahmood was killed during an operation near the village of Ghoresh, a NATO official said in a statement.

Tipped off to his whereabouts, Afghan security forces, backed by NATO troops, surrounded the compound where Mahmood was said to be hiding. He was given the option to surrender, but apparently chose to attack instead and was killed in the resulting gunbattle.

"With Mahmood no longer operating in the area, the insurgents' ability to conduct operations will be significantly degraded in Kandahar province," Canadian Brig.-Gen Richard Blanchette said in a release.

Mahmood was also said to be instrumental in the recruiting of suicide bombers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Other battles

- A battle just outside of Kandahar has killed at least six Taliban fighters, while an air strike against militants elsewhere in the south killed eight, officials said yesterday.

Carnival **Not the last straw**

JEAN-CHRISTOPHE BOTT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

So called "Straw Men," wearing costumes made of jute bags stuffed with straw along with scary masks, prepare yesterday before parading through the village of Evolene, Switzerland, during the traditional carnival procession.

74 killed, dozens trapped in China coal mine blast

MINES A gas explosion ripped through a coal mine in northern China yesterday, killing at least 74 miners and trapping dozens — the deadliest coal mine accident in more than a year.

The pre-dawn blast occurred while 436 workers were in the Tunlan Coal Mine in Gujiao city near Taiyuan, the capital of Shanxi province, the Xinhua news agency said.

At least 74 miners died and 114 others were hospitalized, including six in critical condition. By yesterday evening all the trapped miners had been found, Xinhua reported.

The mine is owned by Shanxi Coking Coal Group. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

PAKISTAN The local government will distribute 30,000 rifles to villagers to help security forces fight the growing strength of Taliban and al-Qaida militants in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province, a top official said yesterday. Similar village militias, backed by the United States, have been credited with reducing violence in Iraq. A comparable initiative was underway in Afghanistan.

IRAQ The American military has begun testing exit routes to get millions of tons of supplies out of Iraq. The idea is for the U.S. departure to be a gradual, orderly exit, in contrast to the near-panic rush out of Vietnam. Convoys carrying armoured vehicles, weapons and other gear have moved through Jordan and Kuwait.

EGYPT Egyptian police say a bomb exploded outside a historic Cairo mosque in the crowded bazaar area popular with tourists, wounding at least eight people. Bloodstains could be seen in front of the Hussein mosque, next to the famed Khan el-Khalili bazaar. Riot police cordoned off the area and sniffer dogs could be seen as worshippers were evacuated. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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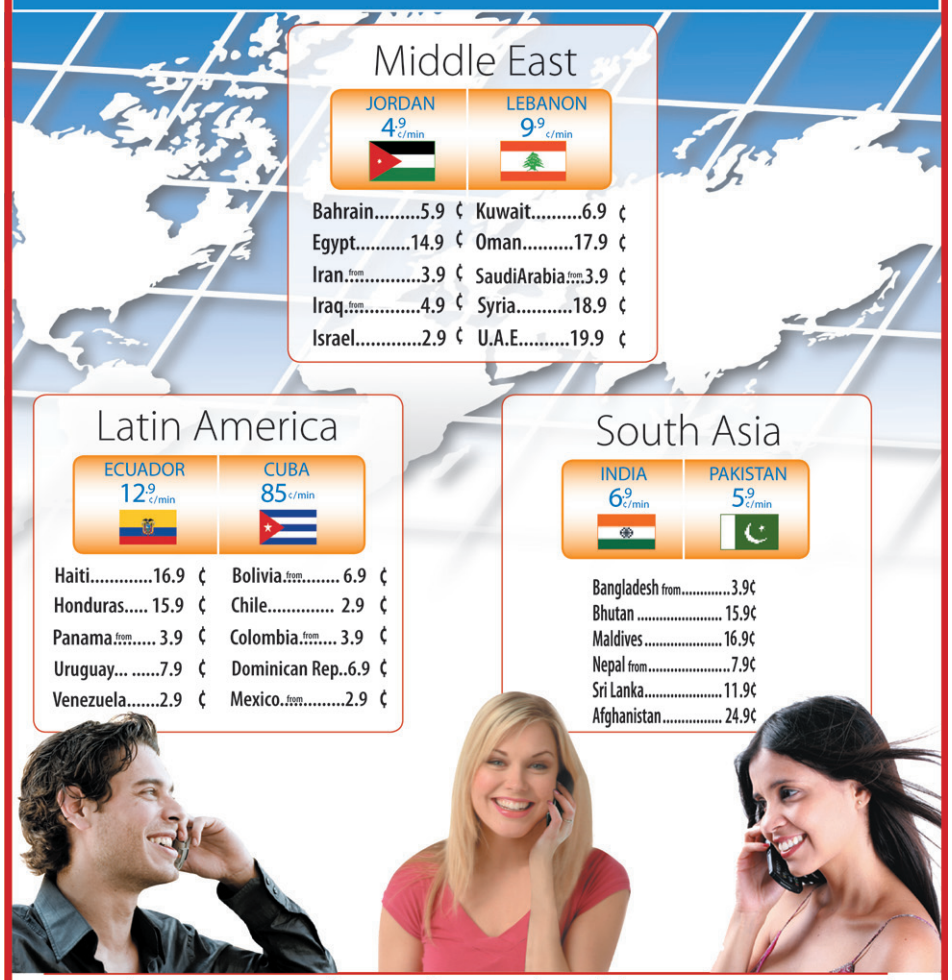

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Are you recession ready?

HineSight

Anne Hines

An advantage of working as a writer is that you're never aware that the economy *isn't* in recession. For most members of my profession, being a writer in Canada is about as lucrative as being an actor in Canada or a women's hockey player anywhere.

Still it's impossible to deny that our current economic situation may be going from bad to "Ho boy, that hurts." So for those who did not plan ahead by weaning your family off expensive luxuries such as food and housing, here's a quick questionnaire to test whether you're prepared for what might lie ahead.

Are You Recession-Ready?

1.) Do you see this Metro newspaper as:

a) A convenient, cost-efficient means of accessing news and entertainment?

b) Toilet paper.

2.) When tallying up your saleable assets do you include:

a) Your condo, car and the sorry remains of your stock portfolio.

b) Your vital organs.

3.) In order to balance your household budget will your strategy be to:

a) Offset rising grocery prices by decreasing wasted food.

b) Offset rising grocery prices by decreasing the squirrel population.

4.) Izaak Walton famously said, "Health is a blessing money cannot buy." In your opinion these are the words of:

a) A wise visionary.

b) Someone who never had to live without a prescription drug plan.

5.) Which of these traits do you consider most useful in surviving a recession?

a) Patience, restraint and hope.

b) The ability to chew and digest tree bark.

6.) The best way to save money on your children is by encouraging them to explore the time-honoured traditions of:

a) Simple pleasures.

b) Running away and joining a circus.

7.) If faced with a choice between giving up your VIP cable TV package or selling your mother into white slavery, would your response be:

a) This is outrageous. I love my mother.

b) Does the package include the fishing channel?

8.) For you, the upside of this recession is realizing that:

a) What really matters are friends and family.

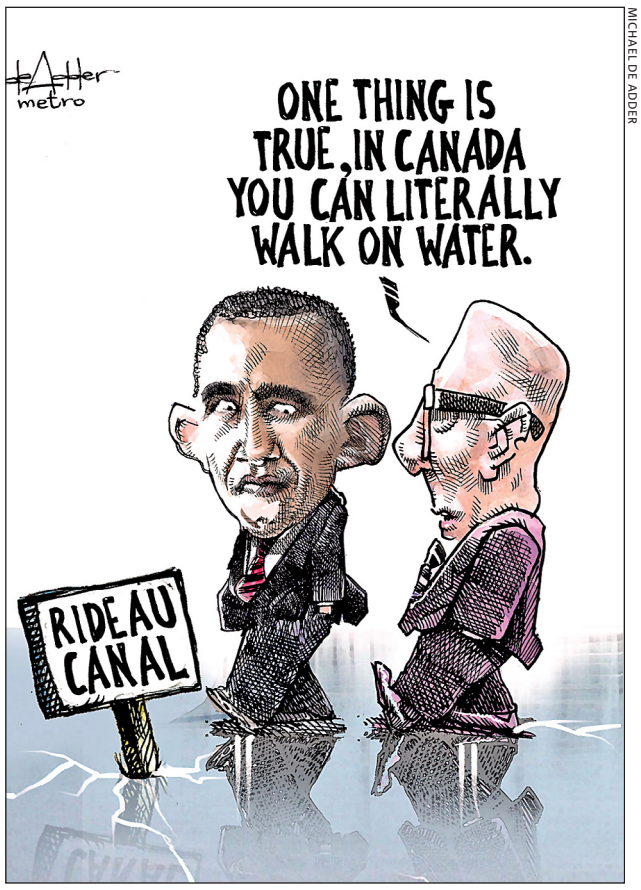
b) You'll still have something to complain about long after winter is done.

If you answered a) to all or most of these questions, you have as much chance of beating this recession as a Timbits team up against the Calgary Flames.

But, if you answered b) to all or most of these questions, you're recession ready and good to go ... anywhere except the mall.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

Riding the Recession



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Metro Online Poll Results

26% SAID YES	Were you taken by President Obama's Canadian charm offensive? *Weigh in on today's question at metronews.ca*	74% SAID NO

TTC fare freeze dependant upon healthy Toronto economy

InTransit

Ed Drass

transit@eddrass.com

As far as I can tell, the idea of a near-term TTC fare increase quickly went from a mere suggestion to a genuine concern for a lot of people.

On Friday TTC chair Adam Giambrone flatly told me there would be no fare increase. Since he is closely allied with Mayor David Miller and both have committed to a freeze for 2009, I would be surprised if they risk the political damage of a reversal.

Of course this presumes the city and TTC budgets don't happen to melt down as the economy contracts.

We're trusting Miller and his supporters that the city budget is sound and can remain that way through the potentially tough year ahead. Even if Toronto's finances do cope, I would expect huge pressure for a fare hike as soon as, oh, January 1, 2010.

As for the TTC's books I remain wary of the commission's ability to contain costs in a sustainable, responsible manner.

But, although job losses typically translate into an immediate drop in ridership, the big expansion of bus service last year may explain why more passengers are getting on board. In past years the agency cut back on schedules during economic downturns — doing the opposite might actually support Torontonians through hard times.

If you're broke, additional late evening service may be irrelevant. Let's hope the city's budget does remain seaworthy, and in the meantime go take advantage of the most extensive transit coverage we've had in more than a decade.

Ed Drass has a degree in urban studies from York University and regularly rides transit in the GTA.

It's your turn to tell others what you think. Email your thoughts and opinions to: torontoletters@metronews.ca
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Human rights complaint over Qur'an case dismissed
A B.C. man who filed a human rights complaint after buying a copy of the Qur'an at a Chapters bookstore has had that complaint dismissed. John Simpson alleged certain verses discriminate against people of Christian and Jewish faith. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

Germany tries to save Opel

Germany's new economic minister said he has set up an informal working group with the U.S. treasury secretary aimed at finding a way to save General Motors Corp.'s German-based Opel unit. On Friday, GM Europe's Swedish-based Saab division went into bankruptcy protection, leaving the government in Stockholm rejecting a bailout request from GM. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Stanford's empire in lockdown

ASSETS Investors who have money in Allen Stanford's financial empire won't be able to access their cash or transfer funds out of their accounts for the "foreseeable future."

Allen Stanford

Ralph Janvey, a Dallas lawyer overseeing the recovery of Stanford's assets, is locking down the Texas billionaire's assets.

The Securities and Exchange Commission accuses Stanford of running an $8 billion US financial fraud scheme. A team of lawyers, forensic accountants and broker-dealer experts are sifting through Stanford's records.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Opportunity knocks

Investors watch big banks' earnings reports

Now that the bosses of Canada's big banks have had their pay haircuts for 2008, how are they doing so far in 2009?

Investors will find out this week and next, as the Big Five report on the first quarter of their banking year. Expectations are muted, given the state of the economy and the results will suffer by comparison with year-ago profits.

But at the same time investors are wondering whether Canada's banks — solidly capitalized and in rude health compared with their competitors in the U.S. and Europe — will fling aside caution and snap up assets at rock-bottom prices.

"This is probably the one opportunity in history for Canadian banks to stand out from their global peers."
Scotiabank analyst Kevin Choquette

"This is probably the one opportunity in history for Canadian banks to stand out from their global peers," Bank of Nova Scotia analyst Kevin Choquette said. Bank CEOs took multi-million-dollar cuts amid dismal news for shareholders.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Royal Bank of Scotland to sell assets

BANKING The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plans to put about $540 billion worth of unwanted assets on the chopping block, vastly scaling back its presence abroad, reports said yesterday.

The Sunday Telegraph said RBS would divest itself of assets, such as the Asian and Australian units it acquired through the purchase of ABN Amro, over the next five years. Some mortgages and lending assets held by the Charter One bank in the U.S. were also slated for sale.

The Sunday Times said the restructuring would eventually lead to the loss of 20,000 jobs.

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Plan may put companies on hook for recycling

PROPOSAL A national strategy being proposed by Canada's environment ministers could spell the death of those oversized, impossible-to-open plastic packages — or at least force the corporate world to pay for the recovery of the non-biodegradable packaging and reuse it.

Strategy
- The action plan is coupled with a strategy for sustainable packaging, which would establish tougher standards to ensure packages can be saved from a landfill.

The Canada-wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility would place the onus on businesses to deal with their packaging — in an environmentally responsible way — once consumers are done with it. The strategy would take municipalities and taxpayers off the hook for recycling costs.

The plan would also spur innovation in environmentally friendly packaging since businesses would be forced to improve the sustainability of products or face financial consequences, said Ontario Environment Minister John Gerretsen.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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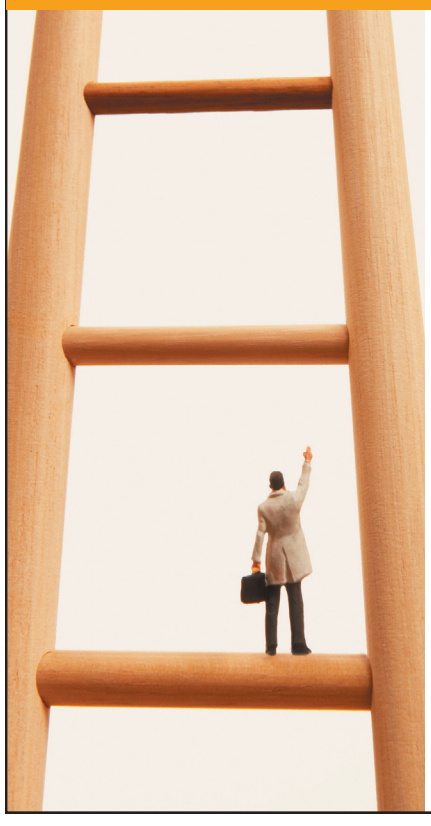
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Hong Kong telecom workers protest forced leave

Several hundred workers from Hong Kong's leading phone operator, PCCW Ltd., marched yesterday to protest a cost-cutting plan that requires employees to take up to two unpaid days off a month starting in March. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Bank stocks under pressure

Stock markets will likely be under pressure this week with weakness in the financial sector on deepening pessimism about the global economy and worries about the possible nationalization of banks in the United States.

The idea of nationalizing some of the hardest hit U.S. banks to deal with the huge amounts of toxic assets they hold is not a popular idea with investors "because nationalization takes us down a road we don't want to go down in terms of, first of all, moral hazard," said Andrew Pyle, investment adviser at Scotia McLeod in Peterborough, Ont. "Once you start nationalizing some banks, you are now making it an unlevel playing field."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Earnings reports

- The pressure on Canadian bank stocks comes just ahead of earnings reports from the big banks. While there is little worry banks will cut their dividends, there is plenty of concern about their profits.

MICHAEL SOHN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, left, and French President Nicolas Sarkozy address media after meeting in Berlin yesterday.

EU leaders back regulations

SUMMIT European leaders backed sweeping new regulations for financial markets and hedge funds at a summit yesterday in Berlin aimed at establishing a common European position on economic reforms before an April 2 summit in London of the Group of 20 countries.

European leaders backed a call for a "charter of sustainable economic activity" that would subject all financial market activities around the globe to regulation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Businesses want action on fraud

PHONES Companies facing bills totalling hundreds of thousands of dollars for phone calls made fraudulently through their voicemail systems say the telecom industry must put in safeguards to protect customers, or Ottawa should order them to do so.

"The credit cards and the banks have certainly put in technology where things are not as easily taken … they're constantly evolving as technology progresses whereas Bell is not," said Leah May at law firm Martin and Hillyer in Burlington, which was billed for $207,000 worth of calls to Sierra Leone.

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New fridge can save energy
Replace your fridge with a new Energy Star model. That will save enough energy to light your home for nearly four months, according to Ed Begley Jr.'s Living Like Ed: A Guide to the Eco-Friendly Life. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Going Green

Fine-tune your fridge

Did you know the ideal internal temperature of your fridge is usually between 3 C and 4 C? When your fridge is kept too cold, it wastes energy and can taint your food. To check, place an appliance thermometer in a glass of water on the middle shelf and let it stand for five to eight hours. If the reading is not in the ideal range, adjust the temperature accordingly. DAVID SUZUKI FOUNDATION

EDITOR: MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

Gadgets galore

EarthTones

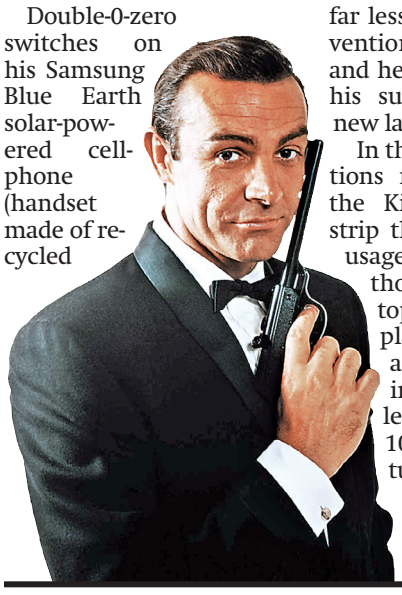
Sophia Dore & Andrew Laursen

earthtones.metro@gmail.com

When gadgets are mentioned, the first image that springs to mind is James Bond. We began to picture a slightly grungier secret agent.

The tuxedo shirt is a little less brilliantly white as Agent double-0-zero (a no emissions agent) forgoes bleach. As the agent jumps into a tricked-out diesel or hybrid car, he punches in co-ordinates to his Econav, which analyzes route options based on car and fuel type, and occupancy, telling our protagonist the best route to minimize carbon emissions.

Double-0-zero switches on his Samsung Blue Earth solar-powered cellphone (handset made of recycled bottles) and calls into headquarters to say he's running late (Econav is taking him on a slower, but less energy intensive route). Suddenly, he spots Dr. No on an electric motorbike (it's good to know even the villains are concerned about the environment) and the chase is on. Dr. No is getting away. Must be that V-Dimension Solar Backpack! He's probably using it to give his bike a bit of a boost. Oh well, thinks 000, leave him to 007.



Sean Connery as James Bond.

Now at work, our agent heads across the lawn, narrowly dodging the Husqvarna Solar Hybrid Automower robot. This triggers something in his memory — the Estonian seductress Nonapussy, who used a vacuum-cleaning robot to search his house while she kept him … occupied. Forcing down the memory, double-0-zero springs into action. He grabs two cups of coffee, one for M, from the Tefal Quick Cup (using far less energy than a conventional coffee maker) and heads off to tell her of his suspicions about the new landscaping company.

In the main communications room, they consult the Kill-a-Watt, a power strip that indicates power usage by electronics. Ah, those dinosaur desktops really must be replaced! M switches on a Philips EcoTV (best in class, running on less electricity than a 100W light bulb) and turns to the National to see if there is any word on Nonapussy's whereabouts.

Suddenly, the power goes out! Must be Nonapussy and her minions. Double-0-zero cranks up his Freeplay Energy handcrank radio to hear the end of the news (and truth be told, the lotto picks). M switches on her Dell Latitude D630c laptop to send out an alert. With its low power consumption and long battery life, she should be in business for hours.

Double-0-zero, meanwhile, fires up his new MacBook, with similarly low power use and more recyclable components. This is his choice to cut down on e-waste, plus it has awesome graphics for his gaming.

M's cellphone rings and she learns that Nonapussy is outside the building. Snatching 000 from his Dragon Quest V, they race out the door, down the path lit by glowing LED wind turbines, and capture the elusive spy. The end.

The above is not meant to endorse any specific product, but does point to some interesting gadgets out there for the eco-conscious. Of course, the danger in promoting gadgetry is it perpetuates the myth that technology is going to bail us out. While there are some neat energy-saving gadgets out there, the old credo "reduce, reuse, recycle" applies as much as ever.

Sophia Dore is an environmental scientist with Conestoga-Rovers & Associates. Andrew Laursen is an assistant professor at Ryerson University.

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One lucky winner will be announced each Wednesday in Metro's ***NEW*** **METRO DRIVE** auto section. Approx. retail value of prize pack $650. Contest starts Monday, January 12, 2009 and closes at 11 PM on Tuesday, March 3, 2009. The final of eight winners will be announced Wednesday, March 4, 2009 in our ***NEW*** **METRO DRIVE** auto section. Contest rules and details are online at **metronews.ca**

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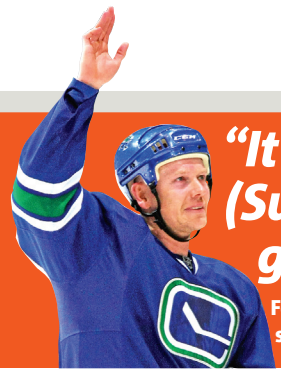
Cowboys owner shoots down T.O. rumours
Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones on Saturday denied an ESPN report that the team is considering releasing receiver Terrell Owens. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports



"It's just one of those nights where you give (Sundin) a chance like that, you know he's going to be able to score."

Former Leaf and current Canuck Kyle Wellwood on teammate Mats Sundin's game-winning shootout goal Saturday night over the Maple Leafs in his return to Toronto. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Amputee runner hurt in accident

TRACK Double-amputee sprinter Oscar Pistorius sustained head and facial injuries in a boat accident Saturday in South Africa but hopes to be back on the track soon. Pistorius fought a legal battle to be allowed to compete against able-bodied athletes. He won the case, but missed out on Olympic qualifying. The South African sprinter also appeared in a popular Nike commercial.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Raps pull quadruple double

NBA RESULT

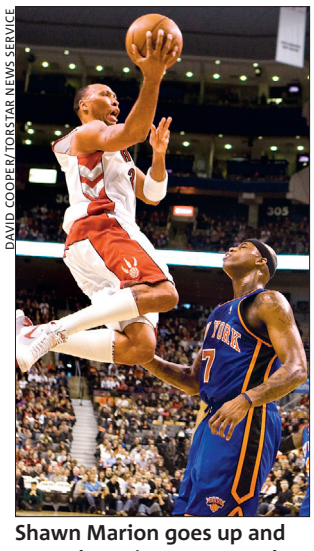
Knicks 100 **Raptors** 111

Shawn Marion and the Raptors didn't have to wait very long to avenge an ugly loss at Madison Square Garden.

Marion had 16 points and 15 rebounds for his second double-double in as many games and injected life into Toronto's fast-break attack as the Raptors beat New York 111-100 on Sunday, two days after absorbing a 30-point loss against the Knicks.

"It's good the way this team responded to adversity," all-star forward Chris Bosh said. "It's all about effort." Marion helped Toronto to score a season-high 29 points on the fast break after entering the game averaging an NBA-worst eight points per game on the run.

Andrea Bargnani had 28 points and 10 rebounds while Anthony Parker added 24 points as all five starters scored in double figures. Bosh, who was playing in just his second game since returning from a sprained right knee, recorded 11 points and 12 rebounds. Jose Calderon added 13 points with 11 assists as every starter except Parker recorded a double-double. THE CANADIAN PRESS



DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Shawn Marion goes up and over Al Harrington yesterday.

Sports in brief

SOCCER David Beckham said yesterday the next seven days "will be an important week" in the long-running saga over his possible transfer from the Los Angeles Galaxy to AC Milan. At the start of the weekend Milan VP Adriano Galliani said the club wasn't prepared to go above the $3-million US offer it had made, with L.A. valuing Beckham near $10 million. Asked about his future, Beckham said: "I know that next week will be important. I want to remain with Milan." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beckham

For more sports coverage, visit us online at www.metronews.ca/sports

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Leafs Brawling on Broadway

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Jamal Mayers of the Leafs and Aaron Voros of the Rangers fight last night in New York. The Leafs won 3-2 in overtime. For a complete game recap, visit www.metronews.ca/sports.

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Sports in brief

MLB After the Atlanta Braves lost out on Ken Griffey Jr. last week, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported yesterday that the team has agreed to terms with veteran outfielder Garret Anderson on a one-year contract. The newspaper reports the deal will be announced today. Anderson, who has spent his entire 15-year career with the Angels, hit 15 home runs with 84 RBIs last season. METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	OT	P
d-Boston	40	12	8	88
d-Washington	38	17	5	81
d-New Jersey	38	19	3	79
Philadelphia	31	17	9	71
Montreal	31	22	7	69
Florida	30	21	8	68
Buffalo	31	23	6	68
N.Y. Rangers	31	23	7	69
Carolina	31	25	5	67
Pittsburgh	29	26	6	64
TORONTO	22	26	12	56
Ottawa	22	27	9	53
Tampa Bay	20	28	12	52
Atlanta	21	33	6	48
N.Y. Islanders	18	35	6	42

d-division leader

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
Carolina 5 Colorado 2
Minnesota 2 Chicago 1
Tampa Bay 4 Boston 3
Washington 5 Pittsburgh 2
Toronto 3 N.Y. Rangers 2 (OT)

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	PCT
d-Cleveland	43	11	.796
d-Boston	45	12	.789
d-Orlando	41	14	.745
Atlanta	32	23	.582
Miami	29	26	.527
Detroit	27	27	.500
Philadelphia	27	27	.500
Milwaukee	28	31	.475
Chicago	25	31	.446
New Jersey	24	32	.429
New York	23	32	.418
Indiana	24	34	.414
Charlotte	22	33	.400
TORONTO	22	36	.379
Washington	13	43	.232

d-division leader

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
TORONTO 111 New York 100
Boston 128 Phoenix 108
Houston 99 Charlotte 78
Indiana 98 Chicago 91
L.A. Lakers 111 Minnesota 108
Milwaukee 120 Denver 117
Orlando 122 Miami 99
Portland 116 L.A. Clippers 87
Cleveland 99 Detroit 78

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Metro Workology exclusive: Matters of the Heart

Don't miss Matters of the Heart, Metro's exclusive feature series in the Workology section. There are jobs to be had that focus on falling in love, falling out of love and everything in between; we will be digging up the stories for you, so check for Workology on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Metronews.ca/work as well.

Workology

'Rant Like Rick' returns

Memorial University's "Rant Like Rick" student recruitment campaign is back for its third year. The contest asks Grade 11 and 12 students to film their own rant in the style of comedian Rick Mercer. This year's grand prize is worth $10,000 and includes free tuition and books for a year. Two runners-up will each receive tuition credit worth $2,550. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Third-party sexual support

Matters of the Heart

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

Listening to other people's sexual problems for a living doesn't faze Marion Goertz.

"People's stories generally display such authenticity, integrity, strength and determination in the midst of sadness, longing and fear that I feel only respect and a commitment to help them move toward the goals that they set," she says.

Goertz is a Toronto registered sex therapist and has helped individuals and couples overcome their sexual obstacles for more than 10 years.

Sex therapists can come from a variety of academic backgrounds, like mental health care, education and medicine. Once one has procured a Masters degree in a related field and completed an intensive sexual therapy course, they may become officially certified as a registered sex therapist and apply for membership with the accountability and professional development Board of Examiners in Sex Therapy and Counselling in Ontario (BESTCO).

As a sex therapist, the dysfunctions Goertz addresses include erectile issues, uncontrollable behaviours, pornography use, affairs and struggles with sexual identity.

"Sex is a primal form of communication and one of the most intimate activities that a couple can engage in," she says. That's why she believes if just one member of a relationship is at all concerned with sexual variables like technique, intensity, pain or frequency, it's worth talking about.

But not everyone is so comfortable with sharing details about the most intimate of activities with a third party; a barrier Goertz admits is one of the more challenging parts of her job. "Sometimes one person is more ready for change than the other person is," she says. "This usually has to do not so much with whether they are happy or not, but rather their form of coping with a difficult situation is to withdraw, stonewall (or) hope it will go away."

Trying to establish an environment of acceptance and support, so that couples feel comfortable to talk, is one of sex therapist Marion Goertz main goals.

That's why Goertz says she is charged with establishing an environment of acceptance and support, so that couples feel comfortable enough to be candid about their intimacy.

"This is about being curious and not critical. It's not about blame, but about understanding a couple's cycle, which either opens them up for loving, engaging conversation or shuts them down and drives them to their separate sides of the bed … or rooms in the house."

"Sex is a primal form of communication and one of the most intimate activities that a couple can engage in."
Marion Goertz

Perhaps that driving divisive force is derived from a lack of love within such relationships. For, good sex equals 95 per cent good relationship, says Goertz.

"Love is huge!" she exclaims. "When we feel safe and connected our minds and our bodies are more open to meaningful engagement."

For Metro's Matters of the Heart exclusive series check the Workology section Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays or stop by Metronews.ca/work

Riding the Recession

Doing more with less

LAYOFFS Do you find yourself suddenly being asked to do more with less? Did there used to be someone in the office beside you whose job responsibilities have suddenly become your responsibilities?

Here are some tips:

- **CLARIFY YOUR ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES:** This is the first thing you should do. If you are taking on responsibilities that are new to you, it is critical that you spend some time with your manager defining what they are. While it can be tempting to rush over this because there doesn't seem to be time, making assumptions about expectations can slow you down later.
- **ESTABLISH PRIORITIES:** There is a pretty good chance you now have too much on your plate. You will need to look at your tasks and deliverables and start putting them into three categories: Urgent, must do, maybe someday.
- **IDENTIFY WHAT YOU NEED TO LEARN:** If you are taking on things that are new to you, you will have to invest some time and energy into your own learning and development.
- **ASK FOR FEEDBACK:** One item that frequently gets a low score on employee surveys is, "I get timely feedback from my manager." Turn that around. Instead of waiting for someone to give you feedback, ask for it.

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Ontario should consider 'no frills' open online universities: Report
In order to address the growing demand for post-secondary education, the Ontario government should look into introducing a teaching-oriented undergraduate university largely focused on arts and science, suggests a new report from the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Pro-explorer hits north and south, peak and valley

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

When Tom Avery was a boy, he used to climb the bookshelves and trees that populated his England home. Now, he's conquering unnamed mountains in the Himalayas that no one has ever climbed before.

"It really is like going back to the Victorian era and exploring these places for the very first time," he said on the phone from his London home. "There are tracks of forest that are waiting to be mapped and rivers waiting to be kayaked and navigated for the first time."

Avery, 33, is a professional explorer. Since his teenaged years, he's visited more than 50 countries, completing expeditions in places like the Andes, the Alps, New Zealand, South America, East Africa, Central Asia and the South Pole. In his new book, To the End of the Earth, Avery details his 2005 journey to the North Pole, which made him just the 41st person to reach both Poles.

While travelling the world for a living may sound like an exciting career, Avery said those stricken with such wanderlust as him must be aware of and comfortable with the potential for danger on trips like his North Pole one.

"As soon as you step foot on the Arctic Ocean, the place is basically trying to kill you," he said. Not only did he have to deal with climactic perils like freezing open waters and 60 foot-high walls of ice, but also with bitterly cold North Pole temperatures.

"You Canadians are used to the cold, far more than us Brits. But let me tell you, -45 C takes some getting used to."

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Tom Avery is one of only 41 people yet to have journeyed to the North Pole as well as the South Pole on foot.

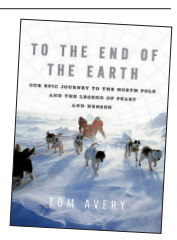
"You Canadians are used to the cold, far more than us Brits. But let me tell you, -45 C takes some getting used to."
Tom Avery on the North Pole

You've also got to be used to finding the money to fund expeditions. "It's not all glamorous snow and ice," said Avery. "I've also got to be back here in the U.K. because that's the only time I get to earn a living." Surely Avery's former job as an accountant gives him a fundraising advantage, but he uses channels like giving lectures to business and schools, writing books and working with sponsors to support exploration's financial needs.

But, if pennilessness prevents you from gallivanting overseas, don't despair. Avery himself said he is envious of just how much of the great outdoors Canada has to offer.

"Canadians are so lucky because you have untamed wilderness in your backyard. There are so many courses available. It doesn't have to be dog sledding to the North Pole. With kayaking, hill walking (and) mountaineering, there's so much to do!"

Check out Tom Avery's book when it hits the shelves on March 17.



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U of T Science Lab to host First Nations and Inuit high school students as part of internship program

This week, two Aboriginal students will get to work alongside some of Canada's top scientists at University of Toronto as part of the Be a Food Researcher for a Week — an internship program catering to First Nations, Métis and Inuit students. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

OddJobs

Diane Peters

Got money on your mind?

As a financial therapist, Amanda Mills tries to pinpoint the emotional underpinnings that her patients have with their money.

Riding the Recession

One of Amanda Mills' clients was a successful businesswoman who claimed the only thing missing in her life was a man. And better finances.

After a chat with Mills, however, the woman realized her money was a mess because subconsciously she actually wanted to keep men at a distance.

It's the kind of "Aha!" moment that fills many of Mills' sessions. As one of the few financial therapists in the world, she's able to get clients talking about money and its emotional underpinnings.

Often what they discover leads them to more in-depth psychotherapy — Mills has colleagues that she refers out to. As well, Mills has suggested clients take martial arts classes to help them feel more secure, instead of putting that pressure on money.

Mills did not start out in the financial industry. Originally from Toronto, she did a BA in English at Carleton University in Ottawa, and then moved to Montreal. There, she took a basic accounting course, liked it, and then got a job as a bookkeeper.

She moved back to Toronto and began managing Theatre Passe Muraille, which was two full years of income in debt at the time. She did that challenging job for nearly three years. "I got dismayed that so much time and energy went into cash flow. It was taking time away from the art."

She started up a small accounting firm called Artbooks that aimed to help arts organizations with their finances so they could get past the money and focus on creation.

For 15 years, that company kept her busy. But she started to notice that one client would have $500 in the bank and be stressed, while another with the same amount felt elated. She always kept a box of Kleenex in her office, and it got used a lot.

"That's when I began to see that money isn't about the economy, it's about the feeling," she says.

She'd already taken numerous courses and workshops on various therapy techniques, and helped co-write a book on childhood trauma. So she combined these skills with her financial know-how and launched her financial therapy business Loose Change.

Now, for half the year, she sees clients through Artbooks, specifically to do their taxes. And once taxes are done, she talks with Loose Changes clients about the stress and strain money puts on their lives. (She also runs weekend workshops to talk money, confidence and myths.)

It takes about three sessions to find out what's keeping people from coping with their financial issues. "It's a place where people can think clearly about money with no judgment," she says. And the Kleenex box: It still gets well used.

The Lowdown

Job title: Financial therapist
Salary: $180 per session
Education: Combination of financial planning and therapy training.
Best part of the job: "Connecting with people. There's no façade with me about how much people have or make, so people are emotionally honest."
Worst part of the job: "Seeing the hardship."

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

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The Pitt-Jolie connection
Taraji P. Henson enjoyed working with Brad Pitt on the Curious Case of Benjamin Button so much, she plans to team up with his partner Angelina Jolie for a film as soon as they can free up some time in their busy schedules. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

Entertainment

Star power
George Clooney has been granted a meeting with U.S. President Barack Obama to discuss the crisis in Darfur. Clooney, a UN messenger of peace, will ask Obama to help end the conflict. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Slumdog sweeps Oscars

Rags-to-riches romance picks up eight awards

Slumdog Millionaire took the best-picture Academy Award and seven other Oscars last night, including director for Danny Boyle, whose ghetto-to-glory story paralleled the film's unlikely rise to Hollywood's summit.

The other top winners: Kate Winslet, best actress for the Holocaust-themed drama The Reader; Sean Penn, best actor for the title role of Milk; Heath Ledger, supporting actor for The Dark Knight; and Penelope Cruz, supporting actress for Vicky Cristina Barcelona.

A story of hope amid squalor in Mumbai, India, Slumdog Millionaire came in with 10 nominations, its eight wins including adapted screenplay, cinematography, editing and both music Oscars (score and song).

"Just to say to Mumbai, all of you who helped us make the film and all of those of you who didn't, thank you very much. You dwarf even this guy," Boyle said, holding up his directing Oscar.

The filmmakers accepted the best-picture trophy surrounded by both the adult professional actors who appeared among the cast of relative unknowns and some of the children Boyle cast from the slums of Mumbai.

The film follows the travails and triumphs of Jamal, an orphan who artfully dodges a criminal gang that mutilates children to make them more pitiable beggars. Jamal witnesses his mother's violent death, endures police torture and struggles with betrayal by his brother, while single-mindedly hoping to reunite with the lost love of his childhood.

Fate rewards Jamal, whose story unfolds through flashbacks as he recalls how he came to know the answers that made him a champion on India's version of Who Wants to Be a Millionaire.

As he took the stage to accept his prize for playing slain gay-rights pioneer Harvey Milk, Penn gleefully told the crowd: "You commie, homo-loving sons of guns."

He followed with condemnation of anti-gay protesters who demonstrated near the Oscar site and comments about California's recent vote to ban gay marriage.

"For those who saw the signs of hatred as our cars drove in tonight, I think it's a good time for those who voted for the ban against gay marriage to sit and reflect on their great shame and their shame in their grandchildren's eyes if they continue that support," Penn said. "We've got to have equal rights for everyone."

For his demented reinvention of Batman villain the Joker, Ledger became only the second actor ever to win posthumously, his triumph coming exactly 13 months after his death from an accidental overdose of prescription drugs.

His Oscar for the Warner Bros. blockbuster was accepted by Ledger's parents and sister on behalf of the actor's three-year-old daughter, Matilda.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

Kate Winslet reacts after winning the best actress Oscar for The Reader at the 81st annual Academy Awards last night in Los Angeles. Danny Boyle picks up the award for best director last night for his film Slumdog Millionaire. Slumdog won seven other awards.

The 81st Annual Academy Awards

"I have to say this is ever so humbling, just being amongst such wonderful people in such a wonderful industry," said his father, Kim Ledger. "We'd like to thank the academy for recognizing our son's amazing work, Warner Bros., and Christopher Nolan in particular for allowing Heath the creative licence to develop and explore this crazy Joker character."

Host Hugh Jackman opens the 81st Academy Awards last night.

Since his death, the 28-year-old Ledger has gained a mythic aura akin to James Dean, another rising star who died well before his time.

The Joker was his final completed role, a casting choice that initially drew scorn from fans who thought Ledger would not be up to the task given Jack Nicholson's gleefully campy rendition of the character in 1989's Batman.

In the months before Ledger's death, buzz on his wickedly chaotic performance swelled as marketing for the movie centred on the Joker and the perverted clown makeup he hid behind.

Ledger's death fanned a frenzy of anticipation for The Dark Knight, which had a record $158.4 million opening weekend last summer.

The previous posthumous Oscar recipient was Peter Finch, who won best actor for 1976's Network two months after his death.

Cruz triumphed as a woman in a steamy three-way affair with her ex-husband and an American woman in Woody Allen's romance.

"Has anybody ever fainted here? Because I might be the first one," Cruz said, who went on with warm thanks to Allen. "Thank you, Woody, for trusting me with this beautiful character. Thank you for having written all these years some of the greatest characters for women." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Winners' list

- Motion Picture: Slumdog Millionaire.
- Actor: Sean Penn, Milk.
- Actress: Kate Winslet, The Reader.
- Supporting Actor: Heath Ledger, The Dark Knight.
- Supporting Actress: Penelope Cruz, Vicky Cristina Barcelona.
- Director: Danny Boyle, Slumdog Millionaire.
- Foreign Film: Departures, Japan.
- Adapted Screenplay: Simon Beaufoy, Slumdog Millionaire.
- Original Screenplay: Dustin Lance Black, Milk.
- Animated Feature Film: WALL-E.
- Cinematography: Slumdog Millionaire.
- Costume: The Duchess.
- Makeup: The Curious Case of Benjamin Button.
- Animated Short Film: La Maison en Petits Cubes.
- Live Action Short Film: Spielzeugland (Toyland).
- Academy Award winners previously announced this season: Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award (Oscar statuette): Jerry Lewis

AcademyAwards

Chris Alexander

For a no-holds-barred account of how it all went down, read his blog at metronews.ca

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WORST Beyoncé Knowles, right. Beyoncé mixes black with a gold flower print. Maybe in the '70s, girlfriend, but you were born way after that decade. You should know better. After you finish with the dress my upholsterer needs it to finish some couches.

MISS Mickey Rourke, left. Rourke may have played a wrestler in The Wrestler but he certainly couldn't body slam a good suit.

MISS Miley Cyrus, right. Dressed in full gown and sequins means dressing down. She definitely learned something from her Vanity Fair cover.

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Lopez, Anthony throw birthday party for twins
Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony celebrated the first birthday of twins Max and Emme with a party at their Bel Air home on Saturday. About 50 guests, including Nicole Ritchie, Joel Madden and their daughter Harlow, 1, attended the party. **PEOPLE.COM**

Fashion hits and misses

Which stars wowed audiences with gorgeous gowns? Which celebrities made the biggest fashion faux pas? Metro columnist Enza Anderson lays out the good, the bad and the ugly of red carpet couture at the 81st annual Academy Awards last night.

RedHotCarpet

Enza Anderson

enza.supermodel.anderson@gmail.com

HITS Amy Adams, extreme left. Little red riding hood move over, there's a new diva on the block. Adams certainly knows how to hold court in chiffon and corset. Anne Hathaway, left. Finally, someone that knows what glitz and glam are all about. Hathaway makes the stars shine and the red carpet sparkle.

BEST Sean Penn and Robin Wright Penn, right. It doesn't hurt to swing both ways. The Penns make the perfect Oscar couple with an all-black attire. It's the simple suit and dress look for the couple that makes them a class act.

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

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Biggest winners? Or losers?
The Love Guru won three Razzies on Saturday for worst picture, actor (Mike Myers in the title role) and screenplay, which Myers co-wrote. Paris Hilton also took home three prizes from the awards that highlight the worst of Hollywood. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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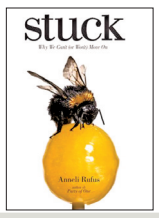
The ear of the beholder

The Jazz **Ear**

Author: Ben Ratliff
Publisher: Times Books
Price: $28 (Hardcover)

Channelling his New York Times critic colleague Michael Kimmelman, Times jazz critic Ben Ratliff uses jazz greats' subjective listening experiences to construct miniatures of musical masters in The Jazz Ear. Ratliff sits down with 15 jazz luminaries including Sonny Rollins, Maria Schneider and Hank Jones and asks them to choose five or six songs, not by them, to discuss how they've influenced each as artists. What ensues is a collection of biographical, candid and expressive vignettes of how jazz is appreciated by its champions and how differently musicians understand what music means to them.

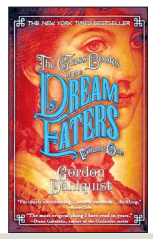


Stuck

Author: Anneli Rufus
Publisher: Penguin Canada
Price: $26.50 (Hardcover)

Like the bee pinned to a lollipop that graces its cover, Stuck explores why people become psychologically and physically immovable. American journalist and author Anneli Rufus mixes her own experiences with case studies and cultural observations to understand how feelings of paralysis can arise and how they can be contrastingly interpreted as both crisis and comfort. Stuck examines a spectrum of attachment from incessant indulgence in food and drugs to inescapable relationships.

BRIAN COULTON/FOR METRO CANADA



The Glass Books of the Dream Eaters: **Volume One**

Author: Gordon Dahlquist
Publisher: Random House
Price: $14 (Paperback)

The debut novel by award-winning American playwright Gordon Dahlquist is the genre-bending The Glass Books of the Dream Eaters, which marries historical fantasy with adventure mystery, plus a dash of steampunk-y science fiction. Set in a Victorian-esque London, the novel opens with Miss Celeste Temple receiving notification that her fiancée Roger Bascombe hankers to kill their engagement before the pair marries. Curious, Miss Temple follows her ex-lover from work to an Eyes Wide Shut-like ceremony, opening a plot-twisting world of eroticism and betrayal.

BookPicks

SAG rejects final offer

CONTRACT The Screen Actors Guild board of directors on Saturday rejected the "last, best and final offer" by Hollywood producers for a new contract.

The contract was rejected by 73 per cent of SAG's board members, spokeswoman Pamela Greenwalt said in a statement. SAG called the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers' demand for the contract to run for three years instead of two, "regressive and damaging."

Producers insist the three-year contract would start when it is ratified, instead of when the last one expired, which would mean SAG would not be able to join with the writers' and directors' guilds to increase their bargaining power when their contracts expire in 2011.

A statement released by the producers alliance said its offer was fair and it had always sought a three-year deal, just as it had negotiated with other guilds and unions. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In **brief**

BOX OFFICE Director Tyler Perry is having no problem posting bail for the protagonist of his movie Madea Goes to Jail, which leads the box office with a $41.1 million opening weekend. Studio estimates today showed it to be the highest grossing film ever for Perry. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TO	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 2/23/09	265	353	2	TVO	Time Team (N)		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Midsomer Murders		Auschwitz:Nazi-Final Solution		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	House "The Softer Side"		24 (HDTV PA) (N)		Heroes "Cold Wars" (N)		News (N)
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Little Mosque	Sophie (N)	Just for Laughs (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		The Bachelor "The Women Tell All" (N)				True Beauty "Finale" (N)		News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Hollywood	Big Bang Th	Gary Unmarr	Two/Half Men	Corner Gas (N)	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		News (N)
	218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	The Soup	How I Met	Soup Awards	Worst Week	Snoop Father	Snoop Father	News (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama		L'Empire romain		*Paria* (2001, Drame) Cyril Troley, Gérard Thomassin.				Professionels
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	213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	Funniest Pets	Funniest Pets	One Tree Hill (HDTV)		To Serve and Protect		Becker
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Big Bang Th	How I Met	Two/Half Men	Old Christine	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Chuck (HDTV) (N)		Heroes "Cold Wars" (N)		Medium (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Bachelor "The Women Tell All" (N)				True Beauty "Finale" (N)		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Gossip Girl (HDTV)		Ghost Whisperer		Medium (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two-Half Men	House "The Softer Side"		24 (HDTV PA) (N)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Time Goes By	Antiques Roadshow (N)		My Music: My Generation -- The 60s				Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two-Half Men	Family Guy	Gossip Girl (HDTV)		One Tree Hill (HDTV)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV)		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332	TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Friends	KTLA News	Two-Half Men	Two/Half Men	Gossip Girl
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour		CBC News: The National		18 Pregnant Schoolgirls		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report		CNBC Reports (HDTV)		Marijuana Inc.: Pot Industry		On the Money		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	Skiing FIS Freestyle -- Aerials.		Skiing FIS Ski Cross.		Boys to the Bigs		Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30	TSN	SportsCentre	That's Hockey!	Interruption	World Series of Poker: Europe		Curling 2009 Scotties Tournament of Hearts -- Draw 8.			
	411	457	58	OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Mantracker		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman
	417	406	81	SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time (N)	This Week in NASCAR (N)		SuperCars	SuperCars	Barrett-Jackson		Car Crazy
family	551	542	25	YTV	Adrenaline Proj	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Zixx Level	Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	Punch	Robot Chicken	American Dad	Moral Orel
	556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Clean	Kim	Love It or List It		Dollars	Smart Cookies	Maxed Out
	570	580	29	MM	Meet Barkers	Meet Barkers	Paris Hilton's My New BFF		MuchTopTens (N)		MuchNews	Video on Trial	MuchVibe
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Deviant"		Intervention "Nicole"		Intervention (HDTV) (N)		Paranormal	Paranormal	Paranormal
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Carabinieri		Carabinieri		Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36	MMM	mmmtop	Revival	Listed		Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Where You At
	575	583	38	CMT	All About	All About	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Coyote Ugly
	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		Kink in Hair	Kink in Hair	Kenny-Spenny	Rent-A-Goalie	Name Is Earl	Testees	House
	620	523	40	BVO	Hot Dance	7 - Solvents	Shumka's Cinderella		Ex Machina in Russia (N)		The Tunguska Project		Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Tabatha's Salon Takeover		Project Runway Canada		ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS		Battle 360		Battlefield Mysteries		NCIS		Crime Stories
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Louis C.K.: Chewed Up		Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	For Rent	Income Prop.	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Ambrose Price	Petal Pushers	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Jermaine Dupri: Brutha		The Single: Monica		Platinum House Dru Hill.		Family Guy
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*Higher Learning* ★★★ (1995, Drama) Omar Epps, Michael Rapaport.					Baldwin Hills	Judge Hatchett
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Lost "... In Translation"		Star Trek: Voyager		Sarah Connor Chronicles		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	The City	City Live After	MTV News	Cribs	The Girls of Hedsor Hall		The City	City Live After	MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	TV Made, Do It	News Show	Tube Tales	E News	Make or Break	TV Made, Do It	Planet Soap	Reality	Deal-No Deal
	603	561	56	FOOD	Chef at Home	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Food Detective	Road Tasted	Hell's Kitchen		Chef School
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Eyes Down	May-December	McLeod's Daughters (N)		Twist of Faith	Clergy	Poltergeist
	621	527	63	STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	etalk	First Class All the Way		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Comfy Couch	Big & Small (N)	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101	TVA	Les Gags (SC)	Star Académie:	Annie et ses hommes (N) (SC)		Dr. House (HDTV) (SC)		TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	126	730	102	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	VIVA	Judging Amy		Commander In Chief		Commander In Chief		Dollars	Body-Evidence	Mediums
	300	601	301	M1	Stargate Atlantis		Sanctuary "Nubbins"		U.S. of Tara	Secret Diary	ZOS Zone of Separation		Atlantis
	305	612	306	PIX	*Hold the Dawn*	(7:20) *Betrayed* (2003, Suspense)			*Trainspotting* ★★★ (1996, Drama)			(10:45) *Blackout* (1978)	

critics'corner

Little Mosque on the Prairie
If your husband can't go to a marriage workshop with you, reschedule it for when he can. In "Recipe for Disaster," Amaar schedules a workshop to help couples strengthen their marriages, but Yasir is too busy to attend. So Sarah asks the Rev. Magee to fill in for him, and the two get along famously — to Yasir's dismay. 8 PM on CBC

Sophie
Sophie agrees to accompany Rick on a trip to the country to visit his aunt. But once there, she discovers Rick has been telling the home folks a pack of lies. A shopping trip with Robbie leads Judith into a new vice in the new episode "Stolen Kisses." 8:30 PM on CBC

Heroes
Matt holds H.R.G. hostage and forces him to reveal how he got involved with Nathan's government plot to capture people with abilities. Yeah, well, it's complicated. Then Matt's findings bring Peter face to face with the Hunter in the new episode "Cold Wars." 9 PM on NBC; 10 PM on GTV

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt
Kenya wraps up New York Fashion Week at metronews.ca/globalstyle

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Aiken parts ways with RCA
The rumors started when his likeness was removed from his record's website and now Clay Aiken is setting the record straight: The former American Idol has parted ways with RCA Records, Aiken's rep has confirmed. **PEOPLE.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Rihanna speaks out after alleged assault

PEOPLE Rihanna spoke out for the first time since allegedly being assaulted by Chris Brown, issuing a statement of thanks to her fans, people.com reports.

"At the request of the authorities, Rihanna is not commenting about the incident involving Chris Brown," says the statement from her rep on Friday. "She wants to assure her fans that she remains strong, is doing well, and deeply appreciates the outpouring of support she has received during this difficult time."

The statement came on her 21st birthday and a day after she was spotted in Los Angeles after spending nearly two weeks in seclusion.

The singer was photographed Thursday heading to an airport the same night a graphic photo reportedly showing her battered face surfaced on the Internet, upsetting her father, who criticized police for their "sloppy work."

Prior to the statement, neither Rihanna nor her representatives had commented since the arrest of Brown, 19, on Feb. 8

On Friday, friends in Rihanna's native Barbados marked her birthday by taking out an ad in the local paper wishing her a happy 21st "amidst all the negativity about Ri Ri. God will continue to bless her."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Rourke's tribute to Roberts

PEOPLE Mickey Rourke paid a bizarre tribute to actor pal Eric Roberts at the Independent Spirit Awards — urging filmmakers to give him a chance and cast him in movies, female-first.co.uk reports.

After taking to the stage to collect the best male prize for his role in the Wrestler, Rourke addressed Roberts in the crowd.

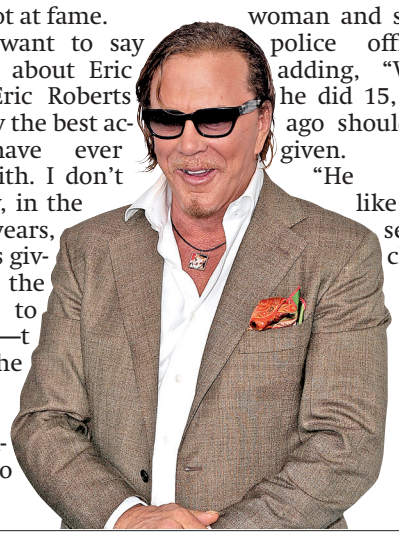
Referring to his own dramatic comeback, he begged directors to give Roberts — his co-star in 1984 movie The Pope of Greenwich Village and 2002's Spun — a similar second shot at fame.

"I just want to say one thing about Eric Roberts. Eric Roberts is probably the best actor I have ever worked with. I don't know why, in the last 15 years, no one has given him the chance to show his s—t again," he said.

Rourke then alluded to Roberts' 1987 arrest for harassing a woman and striking a police officer, by adding, "Whatever he did 15, 20 years ago should be forgiven.

"He deserves, like I got, a second chance."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



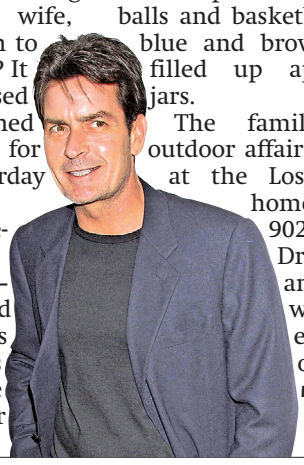
High hopes for twin sons

FAMILY Is Charlie Sheen hoping for a couple of sluggers when his wife, Brooke, gives birth to twin boys in April? It would seem so based on the sports-themed baby shower held for the couple on Saturday afternoon, people.com reports.

At the party — which was attended by a variety of stars including Paris Hilton, Eric Dane and baseball star Barry Bonds — kids decorated cupcakes with baseballs and basketballs, and blue and brown candy filled up apothecary jars.

The family-friendly outdoor affair was held at the Los Angeles home of Dr. 90210 star Dr. Nassif and his wife Adrienne Maloof-Nassif.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Baby No. 2 for Richie and Madden

BABY With a one-year old and a new baby on the way, Nicole Richie and Joel Madden are going to have their hands full.

In a blog posting on his band's website, the Good Charlotte frontman writes: "What's better than winning an Oscar? I am so happy to tell everyone that Harlow is going to be a big sister! God has truly blessed my family. Hope your (sic) all feeling as good as i am right now."

The happily unmarried couple welcomed daughter Harlow on Jan. 11, 2008.

Richie, 27, and Madden, 29, have been together since December 2006.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Bon Jovi's fears losing his hair

IMAGE Jon Bon Jovi is not a fan of what's been happening to his hairline. The rocker, who sported an impressive mane back in the '80s, has been looking for ways to slow or stop the recession. "Oh, let me tell you, I am so worried," he says, according to Exposay.

"I look at guys like Sting and think, 'Well, he's cool about losing his hair.' But I'm already losing a bit and I'm so aware of it."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Allen says she is drunk 'most of the time'

PEOPLE Lily Allen is drunk "most of the time," female-first.co.uk reports. The singer claims she is often misrepresented, but not when it comes to her alcohol consumption.

The website quotes her as saying: "I'm drunk most of the time. I'm normally drunk when I get on stage, but that's changing now. That was just the overbearing feeling last time I toured. Just drunkenness."

Allen has also confirmed speculation she is considering quitting the music industry, the website adds.

She said: "I can't live like that for much longer. It just does my head in. Also, on a relationship level, I can't really have a boyfriend when it's like this.

"I can't go to the shop and meet my friends for coffee. The small pleasures in life are completely eradicated."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Woman caller claims to be Brit

MYSTERY A woman claiming to be Britney Spears has been calling an L.A. law firm late at night asking for representation in a bid to break free from her father's control — and some believe it's actually Spears.

E! News reports that they have heard the messages saying Britney is seeking a way to end Jamie Spears' control over her finances.

In the first message, left at 1:34 a.m. on Jan. 19, the woman says, in a hushed tone, "Hi, this is Britney Spears. I want Jon Eardley … to represent me."

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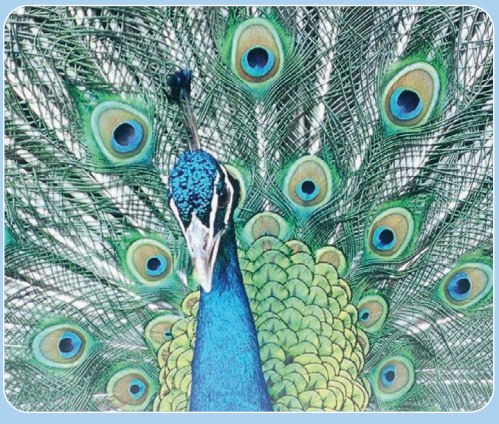

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Tuesday: Mainly sunny -4° / -7°
Wednesday: Flurries 40% 1° / -1°

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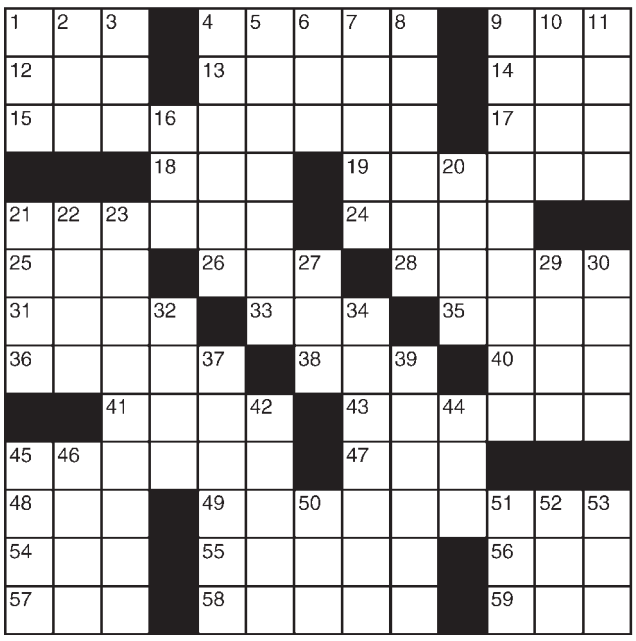

Crossword across

1 "The loneliest number"
4 "Danny Boy" musicmakers
9 Definite article
12 Supporting
13 Lifeless, old-style
14 Tier
15 Happen
17 Gorilla
18 Can. neighbor
19 First game of the season
21 Denim, e.g.
24 Fishing equipment
25 Bobby of hockey
26 Fresh
28 Fleet-related
31 Harvest
33 Legislation
35 Long skirt
36 Forbidden acts
38 Speck
40 Every last bit
41 Totals
43 Multicoloured
45 Stratagem
47 Jackie's second mate
48 Blackjack component
49 Change from one language to another
54 Coffee vessel
55 Greeting
56 Meadow
57 Danson or Kennedy
58 Convinces
59 Vanna's cohort

Crossword down

1 Frequently
2 Neither partner
3 Historic time
4 Relay
5 Put on a jury
6 Hawaiian side dish
7 Mistake
8 Squelch, in a way
9 Pretoria's region
10 Optimist's feeling
11 Basin accessory
16 Pecan or almond
20 Dutch cheese
21 Old, stale jokes
22 Sandwich cookie
23 Exceed
27 Bankroll
29 Wheel holder
30 Easter flower
32 Sulk
34 Feminine
37 Metal workers
39 Human trunks
42 Threaded nail
44 Up to
45 Tense
46 Farm fraction
50 Carte lead-in
51 Matterhorn, for one
52 Afternoon social
53 Have a bite

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

			6			8		
1		3		2			6	
5			4			7		
		5		3	9			4
	4						1	
8			2	4		3		
		7			2			8
	3			1		5		7
		9			6			

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

O	R	B		R	P	M		P	A	P	E	R		
B	A	A		A	L	I		A	R	R	A	Y		
E	B	B		M	A	N	T	I	C	O	R	E		
A	B	E		S	N	E	E	R						
H	I	S	S		E	R	A		K	I	D	S		
			O	F	T		M	A	N	D	E	L		
A	M	I	N	O				R	O	O	M	Y		
M	A	N	N	E	R		S	E	C					
P	O	N	Y		I	I	I		K	I	N	D		
				M	O	O	L	A		M	O	O		
M	A	N	H	A	T	T	A	N		B	O	W		
A	L	I	A	S		A	G	E		U	S	E		
P	E	L	T	S		S	E	W		E	E	L		

3	8	7	4	5	9	1	2	6
2	6	4	7	1	3	5	9	8
1	9	5	8	6	2	3	4	7
5	3	8	1	9	6	2	7	4
4	1	2	5	7	8	9	6	3
9	7	6	3	2	4	8	5	1
8	2	9	6	3	7	4	1	5
7	4	1	2	8	5	6	3	9
6	5	3	9	4	1	7	8	2

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Tarragon Chicken with Creamy Vegetables

INGREDIENTS:
1-1/2 lb (750 g) new potatoes, scrubbed
4 large carrots, peeled
4 skinless, boneless chicken breasts (about 5 oz/150 g each)
1 tsp (5 ml) olive oil
1 tbsp (15 ml) lemon juice
1/4 cup (50 ml) chopped fresh tarragon or 2 tsp (10 ml) dried tarragon
3/4 cup (175 ml) light sour cream
2/3 cup (150 ml) diluted salt-reduced chicken stock
1 garlic clove, crushed
4 scallions, finely chopped

METHOD:
1. Put potatoes in a pot of lightly salted boiling water. Bring back to boil, then reduce heat and simmer 7 minutes. Add carrots and simmer 5 minutes. Drain and leave until cool enough to handle.
2. Meanwhile, place chicken breasts in shallow dish. Mix oil, lemon juice and 1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped fresh tarragon (or 1 tsp/5 ml dried) with a little salt and pepper. Drizzle over chicken and turn to coat. Cover and set aside to marinate in refrigerator. Preheat oven to 375 F (190 C).
3. Peel and thinly slice potatoes. Thinly slice carrots. Whisk sour cream into stock, then stir in garlic, scallions and half of remaining fresh tarragon or remaining 1 tsp (5 ml) of dried tarragon.
4. Roughly layer potatoes and carrots alternately in lightly greased, shallow ovenproof dish, spooning a little sour cream mixture over each layer. Finish with potato slices covered in remaining sour cream mixture. Cover dish with foil. Bake 35–40 minutes.
5. Arrange chicken on top of potatoes and re-cover with foil. Bake for 25–30 minutes until chicken is cooked through (the juices will run clear when chicken is pierced with a skewer). Scatter over the remaining tarragon.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Avoid bearing the brunt of sarcasm. Someone hammers away at a brilliant person's flaws. Get an update on a jittery situation from scowling people.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A belligerent call changes your life. Be aware of your motivations when over-eating. Your stubbornness causes the critical washout of a good plan.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Take cover when a woman makes insinuations. An annoying friend helps you fulfill your ambitions. Ask a care-giver to devise a temporary solution.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A ringleader commits a foolish act. It's a good time to put a collection in a safe place. Strange adventures will transform your life.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Your moodiness melts away if you ask for a massage. A friend calls to complain about unfairness. A self-conscious buddy might make a tragic mistake.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Unpredictable energy could lead to an exotic fling. Paranoid rumours leave people exhausted. A friend's mental haze will be hard to break through.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Don't send mixed messages. Someone's bizarre choice of amusements will be confusing. A storage area is the setting for a complicated incident.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Help someone to make a satisfying deal. An inattentive dimwit won't understand an insult. Avoid any unreasonable people who try to alarm you.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
All is not what it seems. There's an unexpected arrival when somebody takes a walk. Don't worry; good luck is flowing in your direction.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
An unhappy friend has issues with a nice-looking guy. Explaining weariness can be more fun than expected. A freeloader has boundary issues.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Resist over-indulging to soothe sad feelings. Don't search for a way to win in a crisis. Keep the secrets of your love life to yourself.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A coveted prize unexpectedly comes your way. A marriage ends in confusion. A cunning person will cause someone to fall out of favour.

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